GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:262
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2016
Pollution in Cities
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the most polluted cities of India and their ranking among the polluted cities in the world;
(b) the present level of pollution in each of such cities;
(c) the steps taken by the Government to monitor and record the data of ambient air quality properly in the country; and
(d) the steps taken by the Government during the last two years to prevent the increasing pollution in the cities of the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) to (c) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) / Pollution Control Committees (PCCs), National Environmental Engineering Research Institute and IIT, Kanpur is monitoring the ambient air quality across the country under the National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). The NAMP network presently comprises 621 operating monitoring stations located in 262 cities/towns in 29 states and 5 union territories. The analysis of annual average concentration of ambient air quality during 2015 reveals that out of 257 cities monitored, 180 cities exceeded the standard of 60 Âµg/m3 with respect to PM10 and 19 cities exceeded the standard of 40 Âµg/m3 with respect to NO2. CPCB does not rank cities with respect to air quality; however, an ambient air pollution database released by the World Health Organisation in May 2016 indicates 10 Indian cities falls among top 20 most polluted cities in the world with respect to PM2.5. The names of Indian cities, concentration of PM2.5 reported, their ranking by WHO and present level of air pollution monitored by CPCB during 2015 is given at Annexure.

(d) The major steps being taken by the Government to ensure that people living in cities get pollution free air inter alia include the following:-

(i) Notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards;
(ii) Formulation of environmental regulations / statutes;
(iii) Setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality;
(iv) Introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.), ethanol blend etc.;
(v) Promotion of cleaner production processes.
(vi) Launching of National Air Quality index by the Prime Minister in April, 2015;
(vii) Implementation of Bharat Stage IV (BS-IV) norms in 63 selected cities and universalization of BS-IV by 2017;
(viii) Decision taken to leapfrog directly from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards by 1st April, 2020;
(ix) Taxing polluting vehicles and incentivizing hybrid and electric vehicles;
(x) Comprehensive amendments to various Waste Management Rules including Municipal Solid Waste, Plastic Waste, Hazardous Waste, Bio-medical Waste and Electronic Waste notified;
(xi) Notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules;
(xii) Ban on burning of leaves, biomass, municipal solid waste;
(xiii) Promotion of public transport network of metro, buses, e-rickshaws and promotion of car pooling, Pollution Under Control, lane discipline, vehicle maintenance;
(xiv) Revision of existing environmental standards and formulation of new standards for prevention and control of pollution from industries;
(xv) Regular co-ordination meetings at official and ministerial level with Delhi and other State Governments within the NCR;
(xvi) Issuance of directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and under Section 18(1)(b) of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981;
(xvii) Installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices by major industries.

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